

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8981

S E C R E T LISBON 0173

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PO

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S DESIRE FOR RESPONSE  
FROM SECRETARY

SUMMARY: GOP FONMIN RESENTFUL THAT SECRETARY HAS NOT YET RESPONDED CONCERNING MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING LATTER'S LISBON VISIT. THIS WAS VIRTUALLY SOLE TOPIC RAISED DURING MY INITIAL CALL. REQUEST I BE PROVIDED SOONEST WITH ANSWERS FOR PATRICIO. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO JANUARY 14, AFTER PRELIMINARY COURTESIES HE LAUNCHED DIRECTLY INTO AN EXPRESSION OF HIS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER SINCE THE LATTER'S VISIT TO LISBON. HE SAID THAT THE TWO HAD DISCUSSED MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY ON WHICH THE SECRETARY PROMISED TO TAKE ACTION AND YET NOW THREE WEEKS LATER NO WORD HAD COME FROM THE SECRETARY. IT APPEARS, HE OBSERVED, THAT WHEN PORTUGAL IS NEEDED WE ARE REMEMBERED BUT ARE THEN PROMPTLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO HAD NOT SEEN THE SECRETARY SINCE HIS RETURN AND WHEN THEMIDO HAD ASKED TO SEE UNDER SECRETARY PORTER HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT UNDER SECRETARY PORTER HAD NOTHING TO CONVEY TO HIM. THE PORTUGUESE PUBLIC HAS SEEN NO POSITIVE RESULTS FROM PORTUGAL'S COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE ISRAELI RESUPPLY PROBLEM DESPITE THE GRAVE RISK PORTUGAL HAS

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RUN ON THE U.S. BEHALF. PORTUGAL HAS IN FACT BEEN SUFFERING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT COOPERATIVENESS: THE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE

ISRAELI RESUPPLY NOW STANDS TO LOSE REVENUE OF FROM 15 TO 20 MILLION DOLLARS. IF NO RESULTS ARE SEEN SOON, HAVING IN MIND THAT THE PRESENT AZORES AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN FEBRUARY, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TERMINATE THE AZORES BASE ARRANGEMENT.

2. I NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD BEEN TERRIBLY BUSY SINCE HIS TRIP TO LISBON AND I EXPRESSED MY CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NOT DUE TO NEGLECT ON THE U.S. PART BUT TO THE FACT THAT THESE MATTERS RAISED GREAT PROBLEMS WHICH ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. I MENTIONED THE FACT THAT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BUT I ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT THE MATTERS HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY WERE BEING WORKED UPON URGENTLY AND THAT WE HOPED THE ANSWERS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

3. PATRICIO SAID THAT CONGRESS MUST REALIZE THAT SOMETIMES DIFFICULT DECISIONS HAVE TO BE TAKEN EVEN WHEN THESE MIGHT BE DISPLEASING TO SOME COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT PORTUGAL CANNOT ACCEPT THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TREAT ITS PROVEN FRIENDS IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHERS, INCLUDING ITS ENEMIES. HE NOTED THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE AID FROM THE UNITED STATES, DO NOT PROVE COOPERATIVE WHEN THE U.S. SEEKS THEIR ASSISTANCE. HE REITERATED THE EXTREME IMPORTANCE FOR PORTUGAL, IF NOT FOR THE UNITED STATES, OF THE TOPICS RAISED WITH THE SECRETARY AND REITERATED THAT PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OPINION WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT A RENEWAL OF THE AZORES BASE AGREEMENT IF PORTUGAL HAS RECEIVED NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL IN RETURN FOR ITS COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. I NOTED THAT THIS MATTER OF COOPERATION IS A TWO WAY STREET AND THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS IN MANY  
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CONTEXTS PROVEN TO BE A GOOD FRIEND TO PORTUGAL WHEN THOSE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY RARE. AS FAR AS THE AZORES BASE IS CONCERNED, I SAID THAT IN MANY WAYS IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO PORTUGAL AS IT IS TO THE UNITED STATES. I AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CERTAINLY ENTITLED TO AN EARLY AND AS FAVORABLE AS POSSIBLE AN ANSWER AND THAT HE COULD BE ASSURED THAT I WOULD DO MY UTMOST TO ACHIEVE THAT.

5. COMMENT: PATRICIO WAS CLEARLY UPSET AND DISTURBED BY WHAT HE INTERPRETS AS AN INSTANCE OF PORTUGAL BEING

TAKEN FOR GRANTED AFTER IT HAS BEEN USED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES. BOTH TO FULFILL WHAT PATRICIO TAKES TO BE A PROMISE BY THE SECRETARY FOR AN EARLY REPLY, AND ALSO TO ENABLE ME TO START MY MISSION HERE ON A REASONABLY SOUND BASIS, I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO CONVEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THOSE MATTERS DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT HERE. END COMMENT.  
SCOTT

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